

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 SP-02 OMB-01

DRC-01 /057 W

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P R 190212Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4920

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4663

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US KS

SUBJECT: WASH POST CORRESPONDENT PLANS ARTICLE

HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ROKG

1. TOKYO-BASED WASH POST CORRESPONDENT DON OBERDORFER INFORMED DCM JULY 18 THAT INTENDS TO FILE FROM SEOUL IN-DEPTH STORY ON ROK DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR US-ROK RELATIONS. JUDGING FROM NATURE OF HIS QUESTIONS, AND HIS COLD AND UNEMOTIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS AND MORAL ISSUES INVOLVED, OBERDORFER HAS IN MIND STORY HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ROKG FOR ITS REPRESSIVE ACTIONS AND OF USG FOR CONTINUING PROVIDE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID.

2. DCM REMINDED OBERDORFER THAT IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE TO FILE STORY FROM SEOUL REFLECTING HIS EXPRESSED ATTITUDES WOULD RUN ENHANCED RISK OF ROKG ACTION FOR VIOLATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF ARREST OR DEPORTATION. OBERDORFER REPLIED THAT HE FELT IT HIS DUTY AS JOURNALIST NOT TO DELAY TIMELY TRANSMISSION OF ANALYSIS ON SUBJECT OF MAJOR AND GROWING
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CONCERN TO AMERICAN PUBLIC. (HE SAID THAT WHEN HE HAD

SUGGESTED TO HIS HEADQUARTERS THAT HE SHOULD DELAY
PLANNED TRIP TO SEOUL TO COVER JAPANESE CABINET CRISIS,
REPLY HAD BEEN THAT HE SHOULD PROCEED TO SEOUL BECAUSE
WASH POST MORE INTERESTED IN KIND OF REPORT HE MIGHT
DEVELOP HERE.)

3. DCM GOT IMPRESSION OBERDORFER NOT RELUCTANT TO HAVE
AUTHORITIES TAKE SOME ACTION AGAINST HIM. HE HOPES TO
MEET DEADLINE FOR WASH POST SUNDAY JULY 28 ISSUE, BUT
INTENDS REMAIN SEOUL UNTIL MIDDLE NEXT WEEK.
HABIB

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Draft Date: 19 JUL 1974
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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